

a1  
1 cont  
assembly and the desired length of the counterbalance assembly. Although not shown, the spring design can take on other configurations such as, but not limited to, inserting one or more legs between two or more coils of the spring. The spring can be made of a number of materials depending on several factors such as, but not limited to, the loads to be exerted on the spring, the environment the spring is to be used in, the size and/or weight of the spring to be used, etc.

Typically, the spring is made of metal.--

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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a2  
--Referring to FIGURE 6, mounting pins 120, 130 are shown to include a head 122, 132, a body 124, 134 and a threaded end 126, 136. The head of the mounting pins is shown to include a slot 128, 138 that allows a tool to insert and/or turn the mounting pin. The mounting pins are designed to secure the ends of the spring and the strap to the ends of tubes 50, 60. Referring now to FIGURE 5, mounting pin 120 is inserted through opening 58 of tube 50. Head 122 is sized and/or shaped so as to prevent the head from passing through opening 58. The body of the mounting pin is typically sized so as to be the same size and shape of the opening or slightly less than the size and shape of the opening to allow the body to pass through the opening, yet restrict the amount of movement in the opening. As can be appreciated, the size and shape of the body of the mounting pin can substantially deviate from the size and shape of the opening so long as at least a portion of the body can pass through the opening. The body of the mounting pin is shown as passing through loop 98 of spring 90 and through the looped end 112 of strap 110 so as to secure one end of the spring and strap to the end of tube 50. The body of the mounting pin is illustrated as being smooth in this region so as not to cause undue wear on the loop of the spring and the end of the strap. As can be appreciated, the body of the mounting pin can have rough surfaces to better engage the end

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cont of the spring and/or strap if such added engagement is desired. The threaded end of the mounting pin is designed to be threaded into a connector located on the side wall of the cargo area. Similarly, mounting pin 130 is inserted through opening 70 of tube 60. Head 132 is sized and/or shaped so as to prevent the head from passing through opening 70. The body of the mounting pin is shown as passing through loop 100 of spring 90 and through the looped end 114 of strap 110 so as to secure one end of the spring and strap to the end of tube 60. The threaded end of the mounting pin is designed to be threaded into a connector located on the side of the tailgate.--

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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Q3 --The spring chamber 250 is designed to house the coil spring 260. Spring chamber 250 includes a slot 252 to engage the outer end 262 of the coil spring. Spring chamber 250 also includes a circular opening 254 to receive a slotted shaft 256. The slotted shaft retains the inner end 264 of the coil spring. The coil spring has a spring rate selected for the type of load to be exerted on the counterbalance assembly.--

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